

PAGE

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Edmonton CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Your essential daily news | Thursday, December 24, 2015

High -16°C/Low -25°C Cloudy eve

The Heart of Christmas

You don't have to be religious to understand the true meaning of the holidays. It's really just about good manners. **Merry Christmas from** everyone at Metro. XO!

Heartfelt advice from our etiquette expert Ellen Vanstone









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Metro is not publishing on Christmas Day, but look for our special Time Capsule edition on Dec. 28.
We resume normal publication on Jan. 4.

Your essential daily news

Thursday, December 24, 2015



Susan Wachowich's video blog about her experience during a home invasion shone light onto the connection between it and two shooting deaths last week. screen CAPTURE/YOUTUBE/LIVE AWESOMENESS

A dark tale of violence emerges

MAC'S SHOOTINGS

Police confirm 3 people may be involved in home invasion



Tim Querengesser Metro | Edmonton

The links between a home invasion in Sherwood Park and the shootings of two Mac's employees last week continued to grow Wednesday.

Susan Wachowich's recent video blog of her experience being beaten in a home invasion in Sherwood Park on Dec. 13 led to police confirming Wednesday that the Honda Element stolen in the invasion was the same vehicle three murder suspects used five days later — in shootings that took the lives of two Mac's store employees.

Const. Chantelle Kelly of the RCMP in Sherwood Park also confirmed Wednesday police have not ruled out the possibility that three people were part of the home invasion — though Wachowich's account describes only two men forcing their way inside the house.

"It was between two or three suspects who were inside the home once there was forced entry," Kelly said.

3

Based on the individual items that they were looking for, it makes us think that it was a targeted incident.

RCMP Const. Chantelle Kelly

Two Mac's employees were shot and killed at two separate stores the morning of Dec. 18.

Three suspects — two men and a 13-year-old boy — are in custody and face first-degree murder charges.

Kelly said police are investigating any connection between the home invasion, vehicle theft and homicides: "We're still trying to determine whether the individuals involved in the homicide are the same individuals that are responsible for the home invasion."

She also said that police believe the three culprits were looking for specific items, and the house "was chosen for a particular reason." Kelly said police have talked to the home owner to try to determine what that reason could have been and the person has co-operated fully.

In her video blog, Wachowich says two men approached the front door at the Sherwood Park home she was staying at as

a guest at about 4 p.m. last Sunday, asking if she would like her walk shovelled of snow.

She says she told them no.
"When I went to close the
door, they shoved the door in.
I screamed as loud as I could."

Wachowich says the men shoved her to the ground, hit her head, forced her to give up her cellphone and then covered her head with a pillowcase.

"I asked them to let me breathe, and they did that. They were asking where the safe was. I didn't know — I'm a guest in someone's house.

"They kept yelling at me, 'Where's the guns? Where's the money? Where's the safe?'"

Kelly said no charges have been laid in connection with the home invasion and that despite what may appear as clear connections, police are working to gain "a better picture of how the events" are related.

WITH FILES FROM ANDREA ROSS/METRO AND THE CANADIAN PRESS



Homicide detectives look into suspicious death

The Edmonton Police Service is investigating a suspicious death after a man's body was found in a north-end apartment building Tuesday evening.

Police were called for assistance at the apartment in the area of 145th Avenue and 77th Street just before 7 p.m.

When they arrived, the man was found dead. One person has been taken into custody for questioning.

An autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

EPS said in a media release the investigation is ongoing.

Man killed in Pigeon Lake accident

A 45-year-old man is dead after a workplace accident at an oil-field site near Pigeon Lake on Tues-

Occupational Health and Safety spokeswoman Christine Wronko said that around 5 p.m. Tuesday, the man was caught in some equipment while unloading fluid from a tanker truck into a storage tank. A coworker found the man and called 911.

The worker was pronounced dead at the scene. Breton RCMP were called to the scene, but RCMP confirmed Wednesday there was no criminal aspect to the man's death. METRO

Toymaker lights up Freezeway

Creating a magical realm with 'pretty sparkly things'



Alex Boyd Metro | Edmonton

As skaters took to the new Freezeway pilot project Tuesday the ice and surrounding trees were splashed with the colourful light installation work of Dylan Toymaker.

'Pretty sparkly things are a little bit of a habit for me," he says.

Over the last few years Toymaker has become Edmonton's go-to artist for original light pieces for outdoor festivals like the Flying Canoe, held every February in the Mill Creek Ravine.

The city approached him about doing an installation for the Freezeway's pilot project and he put together the current display in about two months, using recycled materials.

Over the entrance from the

main skating rink at the Freezeway are a set of eight lights -"so new I haven't even named them yet" — Toymaker cobbled together from his collection of vintage ash trays and candy

At the centre of the path's figure-8 pattern is a series of oval lampshades, which University of Alberta alumni may recognize from the original 1970s art deco interior of Lister Hall.

"Someone decided to store

them because they might be useful," Toymaker says. The alumni association gave them to him to use for an installation for their 100th anniversary

"Afterwards they told me to

take them away as they didn't want to see them again. I still have many of them, and they make lovely things.

Also in the trees are eight of the same style of wood-cut lanterns Toymaker has made for winter festivals around the city.

Toymaker's biggest challenge at the Freezeway was a lack of electricity. The city was reluctant to run power to the site for a pilot project, so initially everything had to be solar-powered — a tall order in Edmonton ... in the winter ... in the woods, no less.

Toymaker took lanterns developed over seven years of winter festivals and replaced their lights with the most efficient ones he could get, which allowed him to use a slightly broader spectrum of LED -

"Which makes the lighting nerd in me very excited," he says.

In the end, additional safety lights were brought in and Toymaker was able to tap into their power supply, but many are

still solar-operated.

It counts as

something a

little bit out of

the ordinary and

inspiring.

Dylan Toymaker

He hopes the experience of skating through allows people to experience his work in a different way.

"I see these lights more often than most people but I think for most people it counts as something a little bit out of the ordinary and inspiring.



The Freezeway is part active transportation experiment and part light-art installation. Toymaker's lights will be up all winter from dusk till 11 p.m. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



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OHICK CHIDE

Holiday events around the city

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Metro won't be in your hands over most of the holidays so here's a quick guide to living the season up while we take a break:

Dec 29: Magna Carta.

This will be the last day to see the Magna Carta, the infamous document that changed the course of law, justice, and human rights, at the Legislature. It's been in town to mark the 800th anniversary of King John of England placing the royal seal on the Magna Carta in 1215.

Dec 29-30: Clara's dream.

The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers tell the story of young Clara, her dream prince, the meddling mice and the magic of the holiday season. This is the only Ukrainian folk ballet representation of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Held at the Northern Jubilee Auditorium, tickets are available through

Ticket Master.

Dec 11-30: Christmas Reflections at Fort Edmonton Park.

Celebrate winter the way Edmontonians did over a century ago. Visit Father Christmas, sing along to Christmas carols, strap on some snowshoes or go for a hike. Tickets available at the Park.

Dec 31: New Year's Eve.

Ring in the New Year with friends and family in the heart of downtown Edmonton. There'll be bonfires, hot cocoa and a fireworks display overtop Sir Winton Church Square.

Jan 3: Swing n Skate Sundays.

Every Sunday afternoon in January and February City Hall will be featuring live swing, jazz and big band music. You can take a free swing dance lesson or lace up and enjoy the music out on the rink.



Visit Santa Claus at Christmas Reflections at Fort Edmonton Park, open until Dec 30. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



Sgt. Curtis Hoople prepares to block a puck at the 7th annual McCauley Cup on Wednesday. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Police, youth face off at annual hockey game

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Event launched in 2008 by beat officers to link with kids



Andrea Ross Metro | Edmonton

Marcus Pacheco raced around the McCauley neighbourhood skating rink Wednesday afternoon, pushing the puck past police officers during a friendly game of shinny.

His red jersey draped down to his knees, he was breathless as he took a break on the bench.

"It's so fun," the 10-yearold said with a smile. "I love how long it is. We just keep playing."

Pacheco was one of about 75 children and youth who came to the rink for the 7th annual McCauley Cup, a friendly hockey game with 20 Edmonton Police Service officers.

The game was first introduced in 2008 by downtown beat officers who wanted to develop a better relationship with the inner city community.

The event has grown over the years, Const. Terrance Jakubowski said. The rink's sideboard and player boxes were replaced last year, and more sponsors and participants sign up every year. This year's guest of honour was Edmonton Oilers right winger Nail Yakupov.

But the goal of the game remains the same, Jakubowski said.

"It's just to bridge the gap with the kids in the neighbourhood through a friendly hockey game," he said. "Just doing as much as we can for that positive interaction.

"If they can see a police officer playing side by side in just a friendly game, hopefully they'll see police in a different light. There's nothing but talent on that ice."

Sgt. Curtis Hoople played goalie for much of the game

Wednesday. Hoople said the game is something EPS officers look forward to each year as a way of letting kids know police are like everyone else.

"We're normal people. We like to have fun, we actually smile, we horse around," he said. "We're dads, we're friends, we're buddies. Just like everybody else."

As 14-year-old Neithan Salame prepared to take to the ice, he said the best part of the day was spending time with his friends.

But there's no question about which side would win, he said.

"Us. We've got a good lineup, good skaters," Salame said.
"Anything for the boys."







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'Uptick' in skiers from east coast

Powder hounds driven out by warm climate, green hills



Alex **Boyd** Metro | Edmonton

For many Edmonton skiers the Christmas break is an excuse to head west — but this year they'll be joined by a growing number of powderhounds from eastern Canada, driven out by a lack of snow

Brian Rode, vice president of marketing and sales at Marmot Basin, said it's hard to get exact numbers, but they've definitely seen an

Bookings for Jasper through Skican, a Torontobased company, are also up.

"People from the east who are avid skiers are looking for a place to ski and we know that they're coming to the Rockies," Rode said.

According to Nancy Gordy



Skiers are looking for snow, and therefore coming west this year. ISTOCK

with Tourism Jasper, park visits in November were up about 5 per cent over last year to almost 42,000 people. It's been a rocky start to

the season for many hills out east. Blue Mountain ski resort in Collingwood, Ont., north of Toronto, was all set for a Nov. 27 start date, but the

snow just didn't show up and hasn't in other parts of Ontario and Quebec either.

"We were all ready for the 27th - nature was not," said

Alberta-area park visits in November were up five per cent over 2014 — to almost 42,000 people.

Tara Lovell, public relations manager for the resort.

In comparison, 189 cm of snow has fallen so far this season at Marmot Basin, and lifts started running Nov. 14.

Many are attributing the warm temperature and snow conditions in eastern Canada to an unusually strong El Niño year, but those in the Rockies are hoping they won't be as affected - Rode notes that Jasper has the highest base elevation of all major Canadian ski resorts.

But regardless, he said, the increase in visitors won't be enough to crowd the moun-

"Even with the uptick, when you spread visitors out, even on your busiest day here you're not waiting in line here for more than 5 minutes," he says, "we can handle a lot more people."

TWITTER

Nenshi tweets to top crop

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi tops the list of most mentioned mayors this year, according to Twitter Canada.

Toronto Mayor John Tory came in second, with Edmonton's Don Iveson trailing in fifth

Nenshi has 276,000 followers on Twitter and is known for engaging with his online audience. He frequently retweets notices for lost pets in the Calgary area, and answers his constituents' questions through Twitter.

Karen Richards, social media strategist, said Nenshi is very adept at using the medium.

"He's proven that with these Internet trolls, he can very creatively - and with knowledge and sophisticated use of social media shut them down," she said.

Iveson has nearly 72,000 followers and ranked first in a recent poll of top social media influencers within Edmonton itself. METRO

Lots (and lots and lots and lots) of offers on phones and plans!















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CRISIS HITS HARD

Fentanyl has been ruthless to the province this year. At about \$20 a pop, the notorious drug is cheap, plentiful and offers a powerful high. Here are some troubling numbers to give you a better understanding of just how toxic this crisis has become.

JEREMY SIMES AND LUCIE EDWARDSON METRO

66

It's going to be a national problem here very quickly if it isn't already. It is difficult to get a handle on it because usually when we find out about it, it's too

it's dangerous. **Edmonton Police Chief** Rod Knecht

late.... It's tough

death other than

getting the public

information out that

to prevent a

Number of fentanyl-related deaths in Alberta

In 2011, the drug was linked to a mere six deaths



Milligrams of fentanyl it takes to kill someone

Confirmed deaths in **Edmonton** between January and September



Alberta Health Services (AHS) introduced a naloxone kit program in mid 2015 to counteract fentanyl overdoses, potentially saving users' lives.

The antidote must be administered within minutes to be effective.

The government has allowed more medical workers to inject and prescribe naloxone and plans to create more spaces for users to get kits in 2016.

By the Numbers:

- 707 people in the province have acquired naloxone kits.
- · 3.000 are available for people to access.
- 51 naloxone kits have reversed fentanyl overdoses.



We're all troubled by this. We all live in the community, and it's far beyond a police problem — it's a health crisis and the worst drug we have seen in our careers.

Sgt. Martin Schiavetta, Calgary Police Service drug unit







BEST OF 2015 POWER IMAGE Metro's talented freelance photographer Kevin Tuong captured thousands of great images in 2015. This one, of a man showing support for police in June after Const. Daniel Woodall was shot responding to a call, stands apart for its power in telling a story in an instant. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Shovelling snow can be difficult, especially for those with limited mobility. This winter, shovel snow for a neighbour who needs help.

Helped by a volunteer? If you have had snow shovelled by a neighbour, nominate them as a City of Edmonton Snow Angel for recognition and Oil Kings tickets.

Edmonton.ca/snowangels



Brookfield





Christmas need not be so boozy

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Holidays can be stressful for those with addictions

Ben **Freeland** Metro | For Edmonton

The holiday season is a highstress time of year for many, especially those in mid-recovery from alcoholism and other addictions, according to support

"Culturally the holiday season is a time for celebration, and we live in a culture where celebration is more often than not synonymous with alcohol,' said Craig Staniforth, a project manager with Addictions and Mental Health at Alberta Health

"This can add a lot of stress, because whether it's workplace Christmas parties or New Year's Eve get-togethers, there's often an unspoken expectation that you drink."

As an addictions counsellor with more than 34 years experience helping clients cope with triggers associated with alcohol and other substances, Staniforth advises people in recovery from alcoholism to develop plans for coping with the inevitable trig-

This may include developing stock answers to inevitable "Why are you not drinking?" type questions or being ready to escape from social situations where relapse is likely.



Experts recommend those wishing not to drink to think ahead about how they will avoid alcohol over the holidays. ISTOCK

"It's one thing to have the desire not to drink. It's quite another matter to have the skills to not drink," he said. "Saying 'No thank you,' when a drink is put in front of you is a learned and practised skill, because people can get very insistent in such situations.'

Staniforth also said people struggling to stay sober over the holidays can seek out people within their family or network of friends who do not drink, and can act as a stabilizing influence.

"I often remind clients of the

80/20 rule, that about 80 per cent of the alcohol is consumed by about 20 per cent of the people,' he notes. "More often than not there will be somebody in your world who doesn't drink and can offer support at this critical time of year.'

"Also, the holidays are a great time to reach out to people. Chances are that if you're overcoming an addiction you've damaged some relationships along the way. The holidays are a great time to try to mend some of those relationships.'

Flight pattern goes global

It was a year of two stories at Edmonton International Airport, and that looks only to acceler-

Passenger numbers at the airport are down nearly one per cent from 2014, including a significant drop in transborder traffic, but international passenger numbers have grown by nearly 16 per cent from December 2014, according to officials.

"There has been strong demand for non-stop service, not only for international markets like Amsterdam and Iceland, but also through to the broad global connections offered by carriers like KLM and Icelandair, says Traci Bednard, EIA's vicepresident of passenger market development.

"This is being driven both by business travel between Edmonton and European hubs, and by the growing multiculturalism of our region, which brings with it a lot of travel by friends and relatives to and from Edmonton to destinations across the globe."

While 2015 saw a major loss of an international route, with Air Canada's cancellation of its non-stop Edmonton-London service, other developments were more positive.

These include WestJet's announcement of a new twiceweekly service between EIA and London's Gatwick Airport starting May 2016 courtesy of the airline's newly introduced wide-body Boeing 767 aircraft.

European mainstay KLM has

also upgraded its four-days-aweek service to Amsterdam with its brand new 300-seat Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, representing a capacity increase of nearly 20 per cent. And Icelandair has announced an additional weekly summer flight to Reykjavik for 2016, giving EIA six weekly connections to Europe via Iceland.

Bednard credits continued interest in international travel as well as a strong euro for the growth, despite the economic

"Edmontonians have really demonstrated their commitment to non-stop air service, and that they're determined to support these options when they're available," she says.

BEN FREELAND/FOR METRO



NUNAVUT HIGH TEA

Michael H. Davies still thinks he got better shots. But one image the Nunavut photographer snapped of a friend throwing hot tea over his head in -40 C weather has captivated people around the world and gone viral in the process.

"I actually didn't have high hopes for this. I figured it might work, but I didn't think it would be as spectacular as it was," Davies told Torstar News Service in a phone interview on Wednesday. The image, which Davies said he got on only his second attempt, shows his friend, Markus Siivola, bending over backwards in front of a sunset on a snowy plain, a ring of frozen-liquidthat-was-once-tea encircling

By midday Wednesday, the photo had been shared more than 51,000 times on Facebook

FACEBOOK TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PHOTO: MICHAEL H. DAVIES VIA

Cannabis charges in limbo

LEGISLATION

Many caught up while waiting for legalization

While Rose Miranda waits for her April court date to face potential charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking, the 65-year-old retired education assistant can't take cannabis for her arthritis.

Mounties have also banned her from visiting or contacting anyone at Phoenix Pain Management Society, the medical marijuana dispensary where she was volunteering when she was arrested in Nanaimo, B.C.

"I love Baby Trudeau, but he says, 'We're going to fix this.' When? Meanwhile, I have clients who don't have their medication," Miranda said.

"I take care of people who are housebound, people in wheelchairs and people who are poor. They need their medication and right now they can't access it."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to legalize and regulate marijuana but no timeline is in sight. Meantime, cannabisrelated crimes continue to tie up police and court resources, leaving some feeling like they're in legal limbo.

Miranda began using medical marijuana about two years ago, after she said prescription drugs turned her brain into "mush." She began volunteering at Phoe-



clear. I am not a

nix, primarily to educate seniors about cannabis as a pain-relief

Nanaimo RCMP raided three dispensaries, including Phoenix, on Dec. 1. Selling pot over the counter - whether medical or

criminal. Rose Miranda recreational - remains illegal in Canada, and Mounties sent

I feel very angry, but defiant,

because I know

I'm doing the

right thing. My

conscience is

warning letters weeks before executing search warrants. "They came in like a SWAT team, guns out, 'Hands up!,'

screaming, yelling, terrifying

everybody who was in there," said Miranda.

She said police body-searched everyone, including an elderly volunteer with a cane, before handcuffing them and taking them to jail. There, she said, she sat in a freezing cell wearing only a cotton shirt and pants for more than 10 hours.

Two days later, she said she wound up in hospital with chest pains.

Const. Gary O'Brien of the Nanaimo RCMP said he couldn't comment directly on any dispensaries that were raided.

"I believe most of the scenes were videotaped, so if there's any evidence our police officers were (heavy-handed), that will certainly come out," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

APPEAL

Ex-KGB may move to Canada

A former KGB agent has renewed hope he will be reunited with his wife and son in Canada after the Federal Court quashed a government decision denying him permanent resident status on humanitarian grounds.

Mikhail Lennikov, 55, joined the youth division of the Communist Party of the former Soviet Union in 1974 and worked for the KGB after he graduated from university in 1982 until 1988.

He came to Canada with his family on a student visa in 1997 for graduate studies at the University of British Columbia and applied for permanent residency with his wife and son two years later. His application was denied because due to his work for the now defunct Soviet security and intelligence agency.

In 2009, Lennikov took refuge in the First Lutheran Church in Vancouver after then-Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan refused to grant him relief from the inadmissibility finding.

His humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) application was rejected, and he left for Russia in 2015 after six years in sanctuary.

However, he appealed the minister's decision to the Federal Court of Canada. In a confidential ruling rendered in November that has just been unsealed, Justice Elizabeth Heneghan criticized the minister and his case management director for overstepping their responsibility when assessing Lennikov's applications by weighing inadmissible factors. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Mikhail Lennikov. CONTRIBUTED

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

'Good memories:' N.W.T. village said 'no' to residential school



Chief Louis Norwegian in 1952. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

No, they said.

When officials came to collect children from Jean Marie River for residential school, residents of the remote village in the Northwest Territories said they'd keep their kids at home.

In what may have been unique among First Nations, they decided to build their own school. And now, as Canadians grapple with the legacy of residential schools, Jean Marie River is trying to commemorate the fact it doesn't have to. "Our community saw that it needed to do something different," said Chief Gladys Norwegian. "It was democracy at its finest."

Jean Marie River had about 70 people in 1950. That's about the same as now, but there were many more children back then.

That's what brought the government to town. Officials explained that kids would have to attend a residential school at Fort Simpson — a long journey by boat or dog team.

Norwegian's father Louis, who was chief, was torn.

"Dad really stressed on the

importance of our beliefs and values," she recalled. "At the same time, (he) realized there's a dominant society out there, so he really believed we needed to know the ways of the white people for us to survive."

It was the mothers that made up his mind. "When he heard the mothers crying, echoing through the community ... he himself cried," said Norwegian. "To me, that was the driving force."

The chief began talking to officials about Jean Marie River getting its own school. But the

options were residential schools or day schools attached to a hostel where kids could grab a few days worth of lessons while their parents were in the area to trade.

Not good enough, thought the chief. He had logs shipped and men pitched in and put up a schoolhouse. He made a deal with a anthropologists June Helm and Teresa Carterette, who were looking for a northern community to study.

Books and school materials were shipped from Alberta. Eventually, teachers came, too.

"It gave us a good, solid base as compared to people that went to residential schools that didn't have a nurturing mother, that didn't have a model of how to become a caring mother," Gladys Norwegian said.

"I think it helped me to become comfortable with who I am. I didn't really need to explain to anybody what being an aboriginal person means. I was comfortable in my skin."

"I just remember it with good memories," said Marilyn Hardisty, 61. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee deadline approaches

IMMIGRATION

8,000 Syrians in eight days needed to meet federal target



Michael Woods Metro | Ottawa

While many Canadians will soon be sleeping with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads, hundreds of public servants are working around the clock in pursuit of the federal government's goal to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees here by Dec. 31.

More than 500 public servants — the bulk of them at Canadian government refugee processing centres in Amman, Jordan and Beirut, Lebanon are working to identify, interview, screen and process the refugees before sending them on government flights bound for Toronto and Montreal.

"The people in the field are working incredibly hard and they've improved their techniques," Immigration Minister



Min. John McCallum says the government will have identified the 10,000 refugees who will be on Canadian soil in the coming months. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John McCallum said Wednesday, back from a visit to Jordan and Lebanon.

"This is something totally new. We've never done anything like this in our history at such speed," he added. "They are doing it as quickly as possible and over the days they are learning to do it smarter and more effectively.

Many of the staff are Canadian Forces members there to help with medical screening and gathering biometric data, such as fingerprints, Mc-Callum said. The two processing centres are now "powerful machines," especially on the medical screening front. Officials are processing 800 medical cases per day in Amman

and Beirut combined, McCallum said.

Many staff are immigration department officials who are interviewing resettlement candidates. There are also Canada Border Services Agency officials, foreign affairs representatives, and embassy staff.

Many public servants have relocated from other posts abroad, McCallum said.

"I met people who have come literally from all over the world — from New York, from Hong Kong, from Mexico - to relocate temporarily in this region to help out on this process," he said.

According to the latest federal government numbers, by Wednesday night the government will have resettled 2,167 Syrian refugees in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 19,510 refugee resettlement applications are in progress.

McCallum said the government's goal is still to bring 10,000 refugees to Canada by the end of the year, but he couldn't guarantee it because there were only eight more days to bring some 8,000 refugees into the country.

He said the government will have granted permanent residency to 10,000 refugees, but didn't guarantee that they will all be on Canadian soil by year's end.

However, he said he's "very confident" the government will reach its ultimate goal of bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees here by the end of February. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Moving heaven and earth'

The federal government may not meet its goal of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year, Immigration Minister John McCallum said Wednesday.

"That certainly remains our target, we are working day and night to achieve it. But there are certain factors outside our control," McCallum told reporters during a briefing on the Syrian refugee effort.

Those factors include the weather, and refugees' potential unwillingness to leave on very short notice, McCallum said.

As of Monday, 1,869 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 300 were due to arrive in Montreal Wednesday evening. That means nearly 1,000 refugees per day would need to arrive in Canada between now and Dec. 31 to meet the government's target.

"We are moving heaven and earth to get them here as quickly as we can but to do it in a way that is correct and appropriate and takes due concern for security, medical and other issues," Mc-Callum said. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO





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CHRISTMAS EVE

Hundreds of volunteers set to keep watch across globe

Peterson Air Force base is getting ready for its annual holiday mission — tracking Santa's storybook sleigh ride around the world.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command has been working for weeks to tackle the one-day mission.

Miles of wire, dozens of computers and 157 telephone lines will greet hundreds of volunteers Thursday, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported. Volunteers will be answering calls from an estimated 125,000 children around the globe looking for Santa's whereabouts.

"We keep adding stuff every year," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Kelly after he and a team of airmen taped down phone wires in the call centre Monday.

The call centre in a training building will be staffed for 23 hours and Christmas Eve. Volunteers will also share Santa's location on Facebook and Twitter. Last year, Santa got 1.6 million Facebook likes.

"We start in November," Kelly said. "We have to test every phone before we bring it in

NORAD's 60th year of tracking Santa involves more than the military. The program is underwritten by contractors who pay for the phones, the computers and the website.

First lady Michelle Obama is expected to volunteer, with calls forwarded to her on Christmas Eve.

Volunteers will field a growing number of calls from curious kids from outside the United States.

On the bilingual front, NORAD, a partnership between the U.S. and Canada, has a distinct advantage.

"The great thing about having Canadian forces here is they

can speak in French," Canadian Maj. Jennifer Stadnyk said. NORAD is responsible for defending the skies and www monitoring the sea approaches for both nations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Medical staff move landslide survivor Tian Zeming following surgery in a hospital in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province Wednesday. CHINATOPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Door gives trapped man space to survive

As long as there is

Shenzhen vice mayor

Squeezed into a narrow room under piles of debris for 67 hours, a young man was saved by a door that trapped his foot but gave him space to survive. Rescuers on Wednesday pulled him from the massive mudslide that hit part of a major manufacturing city in southern China.

In a feeble voice migrant

worker Tian Zeming, 21, told rescuers his name and that another person was buried near him, according to authorities. But medical and rescue staff who went down into

the rubble found the second person had not survived.

More than 70 people are still missing after the mountain of construction waste material and mud collapsed at midday Sunday and flowed into an industrial park in Shenzhen.

Zhang Hu, a city vice mayor,

told a news conference that four bodies had been found. He said that even though the critical 72-hour period to find survivors had passed, they were continuing rescue efforts with a team of 5,000.

"As long as there is a sliver of hope, we will never give up," Zhang said.

State broadcaster CCTV re-

ported that . Tian underwent surgery for a broken hand and on his a sliver of hope, we foot, which had will never give up. been wedged against a door panel. It said he had been trying to get out of his

room when the building collapsed, and the door panel created a space for him to survive.

Hospital boss Wang Guangming said Tian was in stable condition, but extremely weak, dehydrated and with several soft tissue injuries and multiple fractures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NEW JERSEY

Panic over Elf on a Shelf A New Jersey girl called 911 after she touched

her Elf on the Shelf. Police say seven-year-old Isabelle LaPeruta of Old Bridge was worried because. according to the popular children's book.



the magic of Christmas goes away if the elf is touched.

Her mother, Lynanne, says she awoke from a nap to find her daughter trying to shoo an officer out of the house. She says the girl panicked after the elf fell on the floor when she threw a ball.

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Black Lives Matter protest hits Minneapolis

olis-St. Paul International Airport on Wednesday as protesters blocked roads and caused significant traffic delays after they moved from a rally that briefly shut down the Mall of America.

A rally at the mall was organized by Black Lives Matter activists to bring attention to the police shooting of Jamal Clark, a black man in Minneapolis. The protesters want video released.

urged protesters to stop blocking access to part of the airport. He said releasing video of officers' altercation with Clark could jeopardize investigations.

About 500 protesters initially gathered at the Mall of America early Wednesday afternoon. The mall sought a court order blocking the planned protest. A judge on Tuesday barred three organizers from attending the demonstration, but didn't have the power to block unidentified



Police arrest one of the 500 protesters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

protesters associated with Black Lives Matter from showing up.

Kandace Montgomery, one of three organizers, said the group wasn't deterred by the ban. Montgomery said the retail mecca was the perfect venue for their demonstration to pressure authorities involved in the investigation of Clark's death to release video footage.

"When you disrupt their flow of capital ... they actually start paying attention," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE FEAR MIXED WITH CHEER

French police and a soldier patrol near a Santa Claus model in Nice, southeastern France, Wednesday. France's interior minister says the government will tighten security around Christmas, amid continued concerns about potential extremist violence after deadly attacks last month. LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junta claims mass approval

GOVERNMENT

Thailand's military rulers say poll shows 99% rating

It's the kind of poll result you'd see in a North Korean election or Saddam Hussein's Iraq: Thailand's military-ruled government says 99 per cent of the country's people are happy with its performance since it took power in a coup last year.

The junta has relentlessly pursued critics, jailing them for attempting to stage protests, lighting candles or even hitting the "like" button on Facebook, yet says the poll released Tuesday shows an astonishing majority of Thais are satisfied with its performance.

The survey conducted by the government-run National Statistical Organization found that 98.9 per cent of respondents were satisfied and confident in the government's performance, said government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd. He did not disclose the margin of error of the survey, but said 2,700 people nationwide were polled from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4.

However, the number of respondents and dates they were polled varied depending on the government source.

Deputy government spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak said over 7,000 people

MUSIC COUP



PM Prayuth Chan-ocha THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

PM seeks harmony with new song for country

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the temperamental but tuneful head of Thailand's military junta, has written a song as a present to his fellow citizens. He said his new song, Because You Are Thailand, is an appeal to all Thais to join with him in overcoming the crisis that besets Thailand, an apparent reference to divisions that caused sometimesviolent political conflicts over the past decade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

were polled earlier in December. The statistics office that conducted the poll said 3,900 people were surveyed from Nov. 2 to 10 — and that 98.6 per cent of them expressed satisfaction with the government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Covert work a fiasco: Report

INTELLIGENCE

Agency finds U.S. efforts in Cuba a mess

Once-secret U.S. government programs in Cuba that included a Twitter-like messaging service and an HIV-prevention workshop contained inadequate monitoring, conflicts of interest and questions of legal responsibility for those involved, according to an agency watchdog report this week.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, which oversaw the now-defunct "Cuban Twitter" program and other efforts, didn't have a policy in place to protect sensitive work from subversion by Cuban intelligence officials, the report stated. ZunZuneo, as the text-messaging program was called, was among several of the agency's Cuban civil-society programs designed to bring about democratic change.

The USAID inspector general's report follows a monthslong investigation by The Associated Press last year into concealed U.S. government



A street vendor in Havana passes the time on her smartphone. Once-secret U.S. government programs in Cuba that included a Twitter-like messaging service had inadequate monitoring, according to report this week. RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

work on the island. Those disclosures revealed how one of those companies — working under USAÎD's supervision developed ZunZuneo, staged an HIV-prevention workshop to recruit activists in Cuba and infiltrated the nation's hip-hop community.

The report also faulted conflicts of interest, including how family members received grant awards. In one case, an operations manager for Creative Associates International — a Washington-based firm central to the efforts - looked to a family member's technical company, Nimesa, for consulting.

Government agencies are subject to public scrutiny," the report stated. "As a government agency, USAID should not tolerate, much less approve, awards that constitute conflicts of interest. Such conflicts, which in ZunZuneo amounted to nepo-

tism, increased the program's vulnerability to fraud, waste and abuse.'

The programs run by Creative received sharp criticism from some U.S. lawmakers, who called them "reckless," "boneheaded" and "downright irresponsible." The AP found Cuban artists swept up in the program were detained or interrogated by Cuban authorities, and a secret U.S. hip-hop operation backfired after Cuban authorities found that an independent music festival - one of the largest on the islandwas really backed by the Obama administration.

The inspector general's probe found some program documents were missing, including emails sent and received outside of government accounts or on a secure-messaging service called Hushmail. The report found officials also lost messages when USAID employees switched email providers, and the agency's IT staff said "it would be time-consuming to retrieve them.'

"As a result, we may be missing relevant communications." as part of its investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Man who admits killing refuses mental exam

A man who acknowledges killing three people in an attack on a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic defiantly told a judge Wednesday that he would not submit to a mental competency evaluation. Robert Dear, 57, who also hopes to represent himself, told Judge Gilbert A. Martinez that competency evaluators would want to "administer the drug treatment and make me a zombie." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British Muslim family turned back from U.S. trip

British Prime Minister David Cameron will look into claims that U.S. officials prevented a British Muslim family of 11 from flying to Disneyland. Labour MP Stella Creasy said U.S. officials gave no explanation for refusing to allow her constituents to board a flight from Gatwick Airport on Dec. 15. Mohammed Zahid Mahmood said they were told nothing except that they were not allowed to travel to the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUMAN RIGHTS

France may strip dual-national terrorism convicts of citizenship

France's government hardened its position toward dual-national terrorism convicts Wednesday, saying they deserved to have their citizenship revoked as part of constitutional changes upholding the state of emergency imposed after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

In a speech presenting the proposal, Prime Minister Manuel Valls left open the possibility of prolonging the state of emergency beyond its three-month window, describing an "unparalleled extraordinary situation, an unprecedented fight" that France is facing.

The government's proposal came under immediate criticism from human rights groups, including the French anti-racism organization MRAP and Amnesty International.

The Paris attacks, which left 130 dead and hundreds wounded, were carried out in the name of ISIL by French and Belgian extremists. Afterward, the state of emergency allowed security forces to impose house arrests and carry out searches without a warrant. In 40 days, 2,900 searches had netted 443 weapons, including 40 military-grade arms.

In all, 1,000 people have left

from France to join extremists in Syria and Iraq, Valls said, by far the largest contingent from Western Europe.

The plan to revoke citizenship for terror convicts has caused fissures in the Socialist government. Human rights groups said the plan was a longtime favourite of the far-right.

'This unfortunate plan, an old idea of the extreme right, validates the idea that there are two categories of French, even in crime, some who are a little less French than others before the law," MRAP said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Apps, services cater to tardy shoppers

Procrastinators, rejoice. This year there are more apps and services than ever before to help last-minute shoppers.

Apps like Curbside deliver orders directly to the trunk of your car, more retailers are offering incentives to buy online and pick up in store, and Amazon Prime Now and other same-day delivery services have vastly expanded this year.

Retailers are adding incentives so more people choose "buy online, pick up in store" options. Macy's offered a \$10 e-gift card on a purchase of \$50 or more when an online order is picked up in store via coupon aggregator RetailMeNot. The option lets retailers save on expedited shipping costs and cuts down time for last-minute shoppers.

RetailMeNot's mobile app lets shoppers take advantage of last-minute deals in store too. The app uses a combination of GPS and Wi-Fi signals to pull deals from stores you are in or nearby when you opt in.

Those seeking deals on same-day delivery will find them, too. Shopify, which provides merchants with online checkout services, said its retailers were partnering with Uber to provide free same-day delivery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



ONLINE SECURITY HELLO KITTY FIRM SAYS LEAK PLUGGED Tourists ride on a sightseeing bus painted with a Hello Kitty character in Tokyo. Sanrio Co., the Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand, said it has fixed a security leak on the SanrioTown.com fan site that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users, including 186,261 minors. The leak was discovered on Saturday by a security researcher. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Trying to be the Uber of mining industry

Abitibi CEO wants to pull stodgy sector into new age

At 31, Ian Ball became one of the youngest mining company presidents on Bay Street at Mc-Ewen Mining, which operates in four countries. His boss was none other than legendary gold mining magnate Rob McEwen.

A year after being promoted to the top spot, Ball called up the CEO of Abitibi Royalties (Glenn Mullan) "and told him Ì wanted to replace him," jokes Ball. Today, at 34, Ball has that CEO job and is implementing the innovative ideas that got him there.

Last summer, under Ball's leadership, Abitibi launched The Royalty Search", an online platform where struggling exploration companies and prospectors can submit a property for consideration to have their annual staking costs or property taxes paid for in exchange for a royalty.

Knowing that the mining industry works slowly as it moves from discovery to excavation,

Look at Uber and Airbnb ... They both support market valuations equal or larger than the world's largest gold miners, but don't own anything. Ian Ball

ROUGH BEGINNING

Lawsuit settled

Ian Ball's first few months at the helm of Abitibi were anything but smooth. The firm was low on funds and fighting a lawsuit against three heavyweight miners — Osisko, Agnico-Eagle and Yamana — over the company's main asset, a piece of a new discovery at the Malartic mine in Quebec called Odyssey North. The lawsuit was eventually settled in favour of Abitibi Royalties, which received \$35 million in Agnico Eagle and Yamana shares and a 3 per cent royalty on the North Odyssey discovery in addition to royalties on other parts of Canadian Malartic which will become a mine down the road

Ball insists the sector needs to refine its business model.

"Look at Uber and Airbnb," he says. "They both support market valuations equal or larger than the world's largest gold miners, but don't own anything. ... At their heart, they are royalty companies getting a percentage of a sale. How do you bring that to mining?"

Ball figures his company's approach with the royalty search helps junior miners survive the ongoing bear market, and gives them a leg up on much bigger, established competitors in the same game.

"I have very clear goals for myself," says the Bowmanville, Ont., native. "One was to run a gold company, but when I left McEwen Mining I set out to

build the best gold company in the world," he says. "That might seem like a boastful statement, but when measured by share price and performance, I don't think it is inconceivable considering the foundation we have at Abitibi Royalties. And I wanted to do something on my own, starting small in order to show people that nothing was given," says Ball.

Veteran mining analyst John Ing remembers when Ball began working with McEwen at Goldcorp in his early 20s.

"Robbie likes to hire young people who are unconstrained in their thinking about the mining business, and Ian was certainly one of them," recalls Ing of Maison Placements Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For the perfect Christmas dinner, says Oxford University gastrophysicist Charles Michel, add a dollop of jam to your

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Are you as smart as Metro's favourite feline philosopher?

Our resident snuggly scholar has collected snippets of the best holiday wisdom for you to ponder as you celebrate the season. See how many guips you can match to their authors. And have a meowy Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy and safe new year.





Answers

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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



You may or may not believe in Jesus Christ, but it's hard to argue the man didn't pull off one major miracle: He used a rudimentary form of social media that involved a scattered entourage jotting down tweets on vellum, but more than 2,000 years after his death, his birthday is still an event of global significance.

Admittedly, the manner in which his followers now celebrate the day might give him pause. Overspending on toys and gadgets. Committing the sin of gluttony for days on end. Pretending a fat guy from the North Pole uses levitating caribou to carry out billions of B&E's in one night via outdated home-heating systems. It's a strange way to honour the life of a poverty-stricken prophet who preached love

and humility.

But far be it from me to

Because God knows I'd hate to be judged.

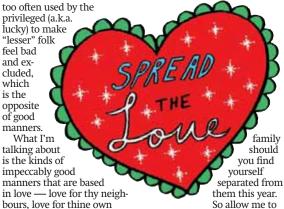
And there you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a public motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Which is pretty much what I've been saying for almost a year in this etiquette column. Not that I'm comparing myself to Jesus Christ. Obviously, that is not for me to say.

What I am saying is that the spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners, i.e., putting the comfort and concerns of others ahead of your own.

These kinds of manners have nothing to do with etiquette per se — it's not about which fork to use with the escargots or how to address a peer should you be invited to brunch with the House of Lords. Those kinds of rules are

There you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.



What could be simpler, right? Be nice to everybody while everybody is also nice to you. If we all embraced it for just one single day, we'd instantly have another miracle: world peace. Good lord, it's so easy a child could under-

sense of being a decent, moral

stand it!

And yet ... It's so hard! (And believe me, it's twice as hard for someone who writes a national etiquette column. The pressure in my personal life not to be a total jerk is considerable.)

It's also hard to buy into the baby-Jesus-peace-and-love message of Christmas when we're drowning in a sea of insidiously sentimental, tinsel-laden, bank-breaking exhortations to buy, buy, buy. Not to mention the stress of pretending to get along with everyone in your crazy family over turkey. Not to also mention the stress of desperately missing your crazy

The spirit of **Christmas is** based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners.

So allow me to suggest a gift-giving idea that anyone can afford, and is firmly on message with the season. Why not give the gift of

good manners, all year long? Help wrangle a stroller onto the streetcar even when you're frantically late. Be more patient with frazzled store clerks, harried servers and amateur pedestrians who clog up sidewalks or stop dead at the tops of escalators. Talk to the oldest, loneliest person in the room at a party full of otherwise sexy, powerful dynamos. Listen — really listen — to the most annoying relative in your family. Drop your indifference to a neighbour/partner/co-worker you take utterly for granted, and let what they want and feel actually register in some non-judgmental corner of your brain (it may take some looking, but you'll find it).

I guarantee these small but genuinely heroic efforts will bring you a little closer to the peaceful, loving world we all crave, whether you're religious

Good luck. And Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro!

Need advice? **Email Ellen:** scene@metronews.ca rates. Discounts vary by model. †† Offer available to reta n other consumer incentives. GM Canada may modify, ex EV), with an ACDelco® oil and filter change, in accorda 3, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed 3, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed



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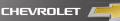
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Your essential daily news

MOVIES GOSSIP TELEVISION BOOKS

Poulter 'pushed to the brink'

The Revenant actor finds chaos of shoot rewarding



Stories about The Revenant's rough and tumble shoot have already passed into legend. Harsh filming conditions it was minus 40 degrees with windchill factor for much of the Alberta shoot — turned the outdoor revenge drama into what one crew member called "a living hell."

One of the film's stars says he was "confused and stressed" during the shoot, but wouldn't have had it any other way.

'It is something that I am only able to analyze and realize in hindsight," says English actor Will Poulter. "I spent the entire experience peppered with these moments of total confusion and emotional stress; in a turmoil. Now I realize that is what I needed to experience. I wouldn't have ever wanted to really gain control because then I wouldn't have been experiencing anything realistic or wouldn't have captured anything we needed. I'm glad for those moments.'

The 22-year-old, hot off the success of The Maze Runner and We're the Millers, appears alongside Leonardo DiĈaprio



British actor Will Poulter portrays legendary mountain man Jim Bridger in the epic frontier adventure The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED



It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions.

Will Poulter on his latest film The Revenant

and Tom Hardy in the gritty vengeance drama about fur trapper Hugh Glass, a frontiersman who became a legend

when he trekked across harsh country after being left for dead following a brutal bear attack. Poulter plays Jim Bridger,

an inexperienced fur trapper caught in an impossible situation - torn between loyalty to Glass, his responsibility to his employers and his moral obligations.

'On many occasions (director) Alejandro (Iñárritu) let me be because I was naturally confused and stressed by being pulled in many directions and not knowing what to do.

He often thought the most appropriate thing to do was to allow me to be that. I would turn to him and say, 'I don't know what to do here,' and he would say, 'Why are we even having this conversation?' The character doesn't know what's going on, so why should I?"

The Revenant is the cinema of misery: a primal story that puts its characters through

"I think this movie is about the human spirit and I think what Alejandro strove to achieve was a film that explored what humans are able to endure and what is worth enduring in this kind of experience. Is it family? Is it money? Is it simply the will to live another day in an environment you love and feel safe in? It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions.'

Poulter says The Revenant is "an emotionally affecting experience," and adds, "there was no creating that without experiencing a lot of the hardships for real." The gruelling outdoor shoot took place on 12 different locations in three different countries including Canada, United States and Argentina from October 2014 to August 2015. Thinking about the shoot Poulter remembers the hard times with pride.

"The moments that stick out most for me are those moments where I felt I was pushed to the brink emotionally and physically but achieving the shot or getting the take. Ending the day was just unbelievable. There are a few of those days that stick out in my mind and that's why it was so rewarding. It's one thing to finish a hard day's (work) and pat one another on the back. It's another thing to finish a day you didn't actually think you could get through and then pat each other on the back.



Comedy lifts the curtain on Wall Street

Anchorman director tackles the financial crisis

Richard Crouse For Metro Canada

Adam McKay is best known for directing broad comedies with Will Ferrell like Anchorman and Step Brothers. But his new film, The Big Short, is a different beast.

It's the story of how four investment-bankers — played by Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Finn Wittrock and John Magaro — saw the devastating financial meltdown of 2007-10 coming when no one else did. It's a lighthearted look at a dire situation. Call it a dramedy.

"When I read this book it did everything I wanted to see in a movie," he says. "It was funny, it was tragic, and the characters were amazing. I think it was a case of running into one of the great books of the last 20 years that shows what is really going on in our modern world.

McKay knows how to milk a laugh out of a scene but he also knows that the level of understanding the viewer needs to get why the housing bubble burst is above the level of most MBAs.

"It's like 2 + 2 = fish," says one banker, expressing disbelief at the financial manipulations used by the big banks. In the film he takes pains to explain how Wall Street likes to use confusing terms to make you



Christian Bale stars in The Big Short, directed by Adam McKay. Even McKay's big, broad absurdist comedies have germs of subversive ideas embedded in them, but here the director confronts political ideas head-on in a hard-to-pin-down format. CONTRIBUTED

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My goal is that it demystifies this world for some people. That it just takes away that feeling of, like, we're too dumb to understand it.

Director Adam McKay

think only they can understand what they do.

"We wanted to be the first Wall Street movie that took you behind the curtain, that really said, All these confusing terms you hear, all the ways the banks make you feel stupid or bored ... it's actually not that hard. If the guy who did Step Brothers can understand it you can too.

"We were trying to show that this thing that half of Wall Street doesn't understand, these derivatives, mortgage backed securities, they're actually pretty easy. They bundled a bunch of mortgages, they sold them, made a ton of money. Then they ran out of good mortgages so they put crappy mortgages in and coerced the ratings agencies to give them AAA. That's it. That's the whole story.

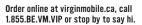
McKay has an a-list cast but he didn't want to make the movie all about the stars.

"It would have been very easy to just do this character story and just show these guys being affected by it but I wanted this thing to bridge a gap. I think there is too much stuff in our society where people just think, 'Ahhh banking! It's boring. Politics! Who cares?' The truth is, this stuff is exciting, It's the language of power. Once you get hooked on it, it gets addictive."

The Big Short is a look at our recent past, but McKay warns this is not a historical drama or cautionary tale, rather it's very much a going concern.

"All the effects of this collapse are still completely in play. All the same questions are still in play and they fixed a few things but they didn't fix the main, weight bearing beam beams that caused this problem. So this is an active story right this second. That is one of the main reasons we made this movie, we want people to understand that. This isn't













Now playing



The Hateful Eight

Director: Quentin Tarantino Starring: Samuel L. Jackson,

Set after the Civil War, a stagecoach hurtles through the wintry Wyoming landscape. The passengers, bounty hunter John Ruth and his fugitive Daisy Domergue, race towards the town of Red Rock.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:



85% + **98%**





DRAMA Concussion

Director: Peter Landesman Starring: Will Smith, Gugu Mbatha-Raw

This dramatic thriller is based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, and a sports-related brain trauma in a pro player who fought for the truth to be known.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:







Daddy's Home

Director: Sean Anders Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg

A mild-mannered radio executive strives to become the best stepdad to his wife's two children, but complications ensue when their freewheeling and freeloading real father arrives, forcing him to compete for the affection of the kids.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE





Joy

Director: David O. Russell Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro

This is the wild story of a family across four generations centered on the girl who becomes the woman who founds a business dynasty and becomes a matriarch in her own right.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics:



63% 🕇 96%





Carol

Director: Todd Haynes Starring: Cate Blanchett, Kyle Chandler

A young woman in her 20s, Therese Belivet is a clerk working in a Manhattan department store and dreaming of a more fulfilling life when she meets Carol, an alluring woman trapped in a loveless, convenient marriage.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:





DRAMA/COMEDY

Sisters

Director: Jason Moore Starring: Tina Fey, **Amy Poehler**

Two disconnected sisters are summoned home to clean out their childhood bedroom before their parents sell the family house. Looking to recapture their glory days, they throw one final highschool-style party for their classmates,

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:



89%



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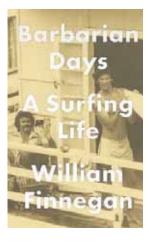
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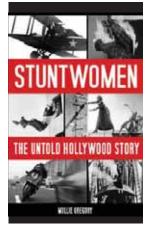
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BOOKS TO ESCAPE THE HOLIDAYS WITH

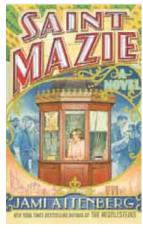
As wonderful as Christmas can be, sometimes we all need a break from the yuletide cheer and books can provide the perfect escape. Here are a few recent titles worth checking out before ringing in 2016.

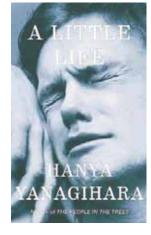
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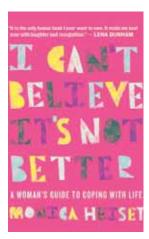












Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life

For those who dream of trading a white Christmas for sand and suntan lotion, William Finnegan's memoir Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life (Penguin) is as close as you'll get without dipping your toes in the ocean.

The longtime New Yorker writer shares stories from his life chasing the perfect waves in Hawaii and other exotic locales, providing landlubbers with insider observations of a cultish pursuit mastered by few.

It's rare that a sports memoir offers such breathtaking prose.

2 Stuntwomen: The Untold Hollywood Story

If surfing doesn't provide enough adrenaline to get you out of the turkey slump, there's Mollie Gregory's Stuntwomen: The Untold Hollywood Story (University Press of Kentucky). Gregory returns to the golden age of film, when women first kicked, leapt and drove their way through silent films.

Through 65 interviews with action doubles (including a sister team who have appeared in more than 160 movies), Gregory sheds feminist insight into these unacknowledged kick-butt heroes of cinema.

3 Canadian Pacific: The Golden Age of Travel

Anyone who travelled long distance over the holidays can attest to the fact that the experience has lost the glamour of yesteryear.

Barry Lane's photo-rich Canadian Pacific: The Golden Age of Travel (Goose Lane Editions) harkens back to when the transcontinental railway and its hotels stood for beauty, adventure and romance.

▲ Saint Mazie

If you're looking for an escape from your family, spend some time with Jami Attenberg's funny, witty Saint Mazie (Grand Central Publishing).

Inspired by the true story of wisecracking Mazie Philips — think Dorothy Parker meets Mother Theresa -Attenberg brings to life the philanthropic theatre tickettaker who lived in New York during the Depression.

No one writes larger-thanlife, complicated but ultimately sympathetic female protagonists like Attenberg.

A Little Life

Sometimes when it comes to books, bigger is better (it can also signal to others that you're not to be disturbed.) If you're looking for a title with some weight both in subject and length — there's Marlon James' Man Booker Prize-winning violent epic A Brief History of Seven Killings, about a fictional assassination of Bob Marley; Garth Hallberg's ode to 1970s New York, City on Fire; and Hanya Yanagihara's disturbing A Little Life, which follows the unlikely friendship between four college

6 I Can't Believe it's **Not Better**

Before making any New Year's resolutions, check out Monica Heisey's funny I Can't Believe it's Not Better: A Woman's Guide to Coping With Life (Red Deer Press).

The Toronto comedian and writer eschews the inspirational self-help schlock for solid life advice, like how cry in public and eat in bed (a "Bed Buffet" of pasta or Fruit Loops is best enjoyed with Netflix, wearing a uniform of sweatpants and T-

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OPEN BOXING DAY

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Telefilm so lame you can't even hate-watch

THE SHOW: A Christmas Melody (W/Hallmark) THE MOMENT: The feel-bad

Melissa (Mariah Carey), the self-proclaimed "go-to mom for everyone in Silver Falls, Ohio," stands in the wings during an elementary school holiday pageant. She's wearing a snow-white cardigan and pearls. Her high ponytail and makeup are red-carpet-ready. Consumed with jealousy, she stares at someone on stage: the nine-year-old daughter of Kristen (Lacey Chabert).

Kristen was Melissa's archrival in high school, and she's recently moved back to town. Before the pageant, Kristen tut-tutted to Melissa, "Someone would have to be heartless to want to upstage a nine-year-old." As Carey tries valiantly to knit her brow we realize, someone is.

Can anyone feel good watching alleged-feel-good holiday telefilms like this



Mariah Carey in A Christmas Melody. CONTRIBUTED

one? If so, how?

Budget constraints force their actors to be driving through sunny October leaves one minute and pulling up

in "snowy" December Ohio the next. Their dialogue is full of cheesy clunkers like, "You're this amazing wedding dress designer for Butler's department store!" and "You're never too old to believe in Christmas wishes." People must be hate-watching, right?

I tried to liven things up by inventing a drinking game: If Carey ever changed position in her scenes, I would drink. But I stayed thirsty, because in every one, she stood stock-still and recited her dialog without even moving her head.

And when they referred to Kristen and Melissa's high school graduation in 1998 — even though Chabert was born in 1982 and Carey in 1970 — well, it just became a feel-sad movie, and I went

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

HOLIDAY VIEWING

Perfectly sized binge watches

It's the holiday season and for many of us who have just a few days off, time is of the essence. Here are five top-shelf shows you can start and finish before you're back to work in 2016:

Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman are perfectly cast as Sherlock Holmes and sidekick Dr. Watson. Each of the three seasons currently available on Netflix have three episodes apiece, each no longer than 90 minutes. You can easily devour all of them in time to catch the newest episode, The Abominable Bride, premiering on PBS on New Year's Day. And prepare for a fourth season scheduled to air in 2017.

Peaky Blinders

This British production — starring Cillian Murphy, Sam Neill and Tom Hardy — is set in post-First-World-War Birmingham, England. It centres on the ambitions of a gangster family and a vicious police officer (Neill) bent on their destruction. With only six episodes in its first two seasons, the series will have you begging for more — and you'll be thankful a third season began filming in October.

F is for Family

This new animated series on



Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock. CONTRIBUTED

Netflix is the brainchild of star standup comedian Bill Burr. It's a ribald look at a 1970s-era family that evokes elements of All in the Family and King of the Hill and adds liberal doses of expletives. And because the first season has only six half-hour episodes, it's almost a teaser for future seasons.

The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst

This six-episode true crime documentary first aired in February. Filmmaker Andrew Jarecki became intimately familiar with a notorious multimillionaire and New York City real estate heir, and by the time the series ends your jaw will be taking up temporary residence on the floor. Thehorrors inside Durst's mind will resonate in yours long after you've finished watching.

Black Mirror

If you're looking only to be cheery during the holidays, this BBC-produced show isn't for you. But if you're looking for a fascinating, disturbing, brilliant anthology series touching on technology, the future, satire and humanity's dark places, Black Mirror is right up your alley. Once you're done, you'll understand why Netflix has commissioned a third season (of 12 episodes!). There's nothing like it. TORSTAR NEW SERVICE



Ski and be seen in style this winter

FASHION

New book celebrates winter cool on the slopes

The paparazzi have been following trend-setters, style makers and movers and shakers to the slopes for years now. Where else are those in the limelight going to be able to showcase their style chops in the winter? In The Stylish Life: Skiing, (teNeues) author Gabrielle le Breton takes us on a journey through alpine history and those who helped

The Natural

Shortly after wrapping the 1969 ski drama Downhill Racer, Robert Redford took his love of the sport to the next level by purchasing his own ski resort in Utah. Christened the Sundance Resort, it inspired the name of Redford's famed independent film festival in nearby Park City.

Snow's In

Ski-bunny style has become a permanent trend, from this season's puffer-jacket revival to snowboarder swagger worn as street style to '60s silhouettes, as shown at Moncler's Fall/Winter 2012 show.

Black Tie In A Whiteout

Artist Janet Hill, of Stratford, created the popular oil-on-canvas series The Kidnapping of Edward Pink which takes our tuxedo-clad hero, a conscripted companion of a mysterious sunglass-wearing brunette, to a tony ski chalet.

Sun and Stars

Sun Valley, the first great American ski resort, was a celebrity destination in its glory days. Ernest Hemingway wrote part of For Whom The Bell Tolls at the lodge in Idaho, though he preferred hunting and fishing to skiing. The resort has since hosted stars including Clint Eastwood, Bruce

Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Is there an Expendables discount?

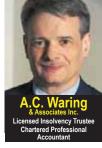
an alpine adventure in at least one film per decade since the franchise began. In For Your Eyes Only, Roger Moore attempts to dodge the KGB by taking his skis on the bobsled track. Do not try at home (unless you are a double-0 agent, and then by all means).

Gwen Stefani's L.A.M.B. label teamed up with **Burton.**



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POP CULTURE MOMENTS THAT MADE HEADLINES IN 2015

The worlds of celebrity and pop culture were filled with attention-grabbing moments over the course of 2015, and sometimes enough similar ones — like when doughnut debacles and bad pics take on a life of their own on the Internet — to constitute a troubling trend. Here's what got our attention this year.

NED EHRBAR METRO IN HOLLYWOOD



Justin Bieber makes a comeback

In 2014, Justin Bieber was Canada's most hated export. But this year, a pop-culture miracle occurred and he is back on top thanks to excessively apologizing and releasing some actually very good new music. Joining forces with Skrillex and Diplo, Bieber's song What Do You Mean? debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 — that, in addition to two other songs dominating the charts.



Amy Schumer's 'last f-able day'

Leave it to comedy's golden girl to bring together the mega-wattage of Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette to toast Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "last fable day" in the Season 3 premiere of her Comedy Central show. Not only hilarious by nature, it threw astute shade at Hollywood's wild standards for women "of a certain age." Schumer returned the favour later this year, appearing in Fey and Amy Poehler's Bad Blood parody on Saturday Night Live. Double props.



The Ballad of **Poot Lovato**

As much as Demi Lovato might hate it, the fictitious mutant sister that her family has kept locked in the basement was having a major moment in 2015 - a moment that wouldn't end for the beleaguered singer, with Twitter Q&As and Instagram comment sections continually hijacked by snarky fans concerned about Poot's wellbeing. You can't fight the Internet, Demi.



Taylor Swift's overstuffed squad

Taylor Swift hit the road this year for her 1989 tour and used it as a chance to prove to the world that she knows a lot — and we mean a lot — of famous people (seen here with Selena Gomez), with cameos onstage by the U.S. women's soccer team, Miranda Lambert and Justin Timberlake to name a few. But she wasn't impossible to say no to. Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan were able to resist her charms. And honestly, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer dancing on Billy Joel's piano felt much more organic.

6 Ariana Grande's doughnut debacle One way to help make your bubbly young pop-star self seem more relatable? Showing you like to get stoned and skulk around

donut shops, maybe even overstepping your bounds and taste-testing a pastry on the counter, as Ariana Grande did in a great moment caught on camera. Not so helpful? Declaring that you "hate America" after being chastised for your intoxicated

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO BE DONE.



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Your essential daily news

LG's latest smart vacuum doubles as cleaning device and guard dog

bar setups. Don't let your New Year's party be under scrutiny — hire a shirtless bartender and

I'm sure this far into the holiday season you've seen your share of unorganized For Me bar setups. Don't let your New Year's

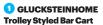
outfit your party with the best bar accessories.











Keep the kitchen island clear and all your bar candy organized. \$300, TheBay.com

2 Godinger Hammered Stainless Bar Set

All the materials you will need to show off your mixology skills. \$80, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

Tom Dixon ARC Corkscrew

Add some designer style to your wine bar. \$88, HopsonGrace.com

Ralph Lauren 2-Piece **Greenwich Double Old-Fashioned Glass Set**

A good drink means serving it in a damn-good glass. \$95, TheBay.com

5 Carter Muddler

Mash and muddle those garnishes for a truly handmade drink. \$18, CrateAndBarrel.com

6 Crabbie's Ginger Beer

Reportedly, a big mainstay for this season's crafty bartenders. \$3.60, CrabbiesGingerBeer.com

Tartan Crock-Pot Classic Slow Cooker

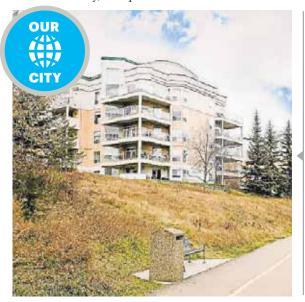
A great way to keep those hot toddies and ciders warm throughout the party. \$28, Walmart.ca

Top Shelf Living Set of 9 Whiskey Stones

Let's not water down the issue — no need for ice cubes with these rocks around. \$23, Walmart.ca

What they're asking: Homes across Canada for \$500K-\$600K

What kind of a resale property can you get for \$500,000 to \$600,000? In this price range, you can certainly still buy a quality home in these cities. Metro looks at a variety of housing types across the country, from pre-construction and resale condos to single-family houses.



Edmonton

You can enjoy penthouse living in this renovated, twobedroom, two-bathroom home at 7839-96 St. NW at Mill Creek Ravine. The living room is bright and spacious with cosy gas fireplace and a great views of downtown Edmonton. The open main floor features soaring ceilings and large windows that provide loads of natural light. The kitchen has been fully renovated with quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, a walk-in pantry and laundry area. The building is located steps from the Mill Creek Ravine, minutes from U of A and downtown. David Luong is a sales representative with Liv Real Estate, 780-995-6526.



Winnipeg

Here's a condo suite at the exclusive Edgewater building. This corner sixth-floor unit offers city and river views. The kitchen with breakfast bar features espresso-stained maple cabinets, granite counters, tiled backsplash, tiled floors, gas cooktop, built-in oven and microwave, dishwasher and fridge. The master bedroom offers a walk-in closet and fourpiece en suite with soaker tub. One parking stall and one storage locker are also offered. Listing agent Natasha Kouk is a sales representative with Royal Le-Page Dynamic Real Estate, 204-989-5000.



\$579,000

Toronto

This downtown condo suite is located at the brand new Neon Condos, just steps from the Eglinton subway station. This young and urban neighbourhood is highly sought-after and this is your chance to invest wisely in a brand new corner suite. Bright and modern, residents will enjoy two bedrooms and two full bathrooms in approximately 755 square feet of living space. Listing agent Scott Hanton is with Keller Williams Advantage Realty, 416-465-4545.

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

'I think I was already sacked': Man United manager Louis van Gaal on reports that Jose Mourinho is in line for his job

Have fun in Helsinki

Stars of the past dish advice to Canada's U-20s

Veterans of the world junior hockey championship say the keys to success are found off the ice: Have fun, soak in the experience and try to avoid distractions online.

"The biggest thing is have fun, enjoy it," said Brad Boyes, who won bronze and silver with Canada in 2001 and 2002 respectively. "It really does go fast. It's been a long time since I've been there. The biggest

thing is enjoy it, compete, win. You might not have another chance to do it.

"You gotta have fun, that's the big- 1997 world junior champion gest thing. Take it for what it is but give it

everything. You don't get a second chance sometimes.'

Mike Babcock, who guided Canada to gold in 1997, says that having fun is just as important for the coaches, if not more so, because it's up to them to set the tone for the players, both at training camp and at the tournament itself.

"No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself," said Babcock, who

spoke with head coach Dave Lowry and his staff at Canada's selection camp in Toronto. "You got to get the guys very prepared but you've got to enjoy it. It's a grind and it's hard to win but if you enjoy the process you have a better

"The other thing is that preparation's got to be equal to the opportunity, get really prepared and you've got a way better chance of getting lucky and guys playing well.

This year's championship will be played from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 in Helsinki. While the event has become a holiday tradition across Canada, tournament veterans say the

weight of the nation's expectations don't hit the players until they've begun to play and messages from home start to pile up.

bench boss Mike Babcock. Edmonton Oilers rookie

sensation Connor McDavid, who won gold with Canada last year, suggested that the players on this year's team should unplug from social media because even well-intentioned messages can build pressure. It's a sentiment that has been echoed by Hockey Canada brass and some other veterans of the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jake Virtanen tucks in one of his two goals in Wednesday's world junior warm-up game against Sweden in Helsinki.

Canada shaky in final WJC tune-up

Mitch Marner scored with less than four minutes to go to cap the scoring in a wild third period, and Canada edged Sweden 7-6 Wednesday in its last exhibition match before the world junior hockey championship.

Canada led 5-1 heading into the third, before Sweden lit up Canada goaltender Mason McDonald with five goals over the final 20 minutes.

"We put ourselves in a very good position after two periods, and we just have to continue





to play and have the ability to close out leads," Canada coach Dave Lowry said.

Marcus Pettersson's second goal of the period at 15:26 tied the game at 6-6 before Marner's goal salvaged the win for

McDonald, a Halifax native, recovered to make some big saves over the final minutes with Sweden pressing for the tying goal. He ended up stopping 26 of 32 shots.

"He gave us a chance," Lowry said of his goaltender. "He made saves, and he made timely saves."

Vancouver Canucks forward Jake Virtanen had two goals for the Canadians, with Dylan Strome, Mitchell Stephens,

Haydn Fleury and Brendan Perlini also scoring.

Oskar Lindblom, Jacob Larsson, Axel Holmstrom and Adrian Kempe had Sweden's other goals.

Linus Soderstrom gave up five goals on 20 shots before being replaced by Erik Kallgren, who stopped five of seven shots in relief.

Canada opens its defence of the world junior title Saturday against the rival United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dirk passes Shaq on all-time scoring list

No. 1 is you've got

to enjoy yourself.

Maple Leafs coach and

of Shaquille O'Neal into sixth place on the NBA's career scor-

Nowitzki made a jumper with 9:51 left in the second quarter of the Dallas Mavericks' game in Brooklyn on Wednesday night to pass O'Neal. Nowitzki finished with 22 points, making the goahead basket with 19.2 seconds left in overtime in Dallas' 119-118 victory over the Nets, to push his total to 22,609.

O'Neal had 28,596 in his



Dirk Nowitzki

a candidate for induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016. Wilt Chamberlain is fifth with 31,419 points.

Nowitzki is eighth on the combined NBA-ABA list, behind No. 6 Julius Erving and No. 7 Moses Malone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians bring back Spengler Cup veterans

IN BRIEF

Canada will have three returning players this year as it chases its first Spengler Cup championship since 2012.

Goaltender Drew MacIntyre and forwards Alexandre **Giroux and Chris DiDomen**ico were named to Canada's roster Wednesday. They played on Canada's 2014 squad that lost in the semifinal to Geneve-Servette.

Canada opens vs. Russia's Avtomobilist Yekaterinberg on Saturday in Davos, Switzerland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Panthers cornerback Norman fined \$26K

The NFL has fined Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman \$26,044 for his role in several incidents involving Odell Beckham Jr. and the Giants in Sunday's

Norman was fined twice Wednesday in the amounts of \$17,363 and \$8,681. He was docked the larger amount for striking Beckham in the head and neck area. The other fine was for a face-mask infraction. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beckham's ban stands for Sunday

Odell Beckham Jr. is going to have to serve his one-game suspension.

Hearing officer James Thrash on Wednesday upheld the suspension for multiple violations of safety-related playing rules after hearing an appeal by the New York Giants receiver earlier in the day.

Beckham will

Odell Beckham Jr. GETTY IMAGES

at Minnesota. The second-year Pro Bowler is barred from team meetings; attending or watch-

ing practices; attending Sunday's game; or having contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. He will be reinstated next Monday.

The NFL suspended Beckham on Monday.

HE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metr@PLAY Thursday, December 24, 2015

RECIPE Sweet Potato and Split Pea Soup





This simple, hearty soup is packed with as much nutrition as it is with comfort factor.

Ready in Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes Serves 6

Ingredients

- 8 1/2 cups water
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cup dried yellow split peas
- •1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger •1 large onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp toasted pumpkin seeds

Directions

1. Place a large sauce pan over medium heat and fill with 1/2 cup water and onion, allow to cook

until onions are translucent. Add ginger and simmer for 2 minutes. Add remaining 8 cups of water, sweet potato and peas to pot and bring to a boil.

- 2. After a few minutes, reduce the temperature and cover soup. Allow to simmer for 1 hour, or until the sweet potatoes and tender.
- 3. In that same bowl, toss your shrimp with the other half of the marinade. When the broccoli has been in the oven for 10 minutes, take out the sheets, turn the broccoli over and add the shrimp evenly across the two sheets. Put it all back in the oven for another 10 minutes.
- 4. Allow to soup to simmer last 10 minutes uncovered. Working in batches, put soup in a food processor and purée. Garnish with pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

1. "_ Is Christmas": Festive tune by #59-Across 5. Ancient's 1601 9. Monastery boss 14. Comical "Ouches!" 15. Egg: French 16. Bellows 17. The __, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) family . 19. 'Madame' of chemistry 20. Canuck prov. 21. Carried 22. Brightly plumed bird 23. "Glory to the new born King!" exclaimers: 2 wds. 25. Eternal City's ancient inhabitant 28. Lively 29. Socialite's 'born' 30. Moon shape, 31. Indonesia's Islands 32. When many might still be shopping for Christmas gifts: 4 wds. 40. "__ little teapot. 41. Raised flatlands 42. Sit-ups targets 45. Util. bill 46. Friends, slangly 47. NORAD service monitoring the progress of Rudolph and the gang on Christmas eve: 2 wds. 51. Baking... All-

purpose and

multigrain

17 18 20 31 32 46 50 49 51 56 57 58 60 61 62 63 64

52. Canadian rocker Mr. Kroeger 53. Gunk 56. Decorate 57. "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Sorrowing, sighing, bleed-ing, dying / Sealed in the - tomb." 59. Canadian

singer/songwriter

Ms. McNeil 60. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn 61. Tilled 62. Be popular on Twitter 63. Mail org. in The States 64. Hubbubs

DOWN

1. "Is that for here or ___?" (Fast food query) 2. Highway honker 3. "Don't know. matters, but..." 4. Leaky balloon sound effect 5. Communicat-

ing cow

6. _ Falls (High

waterfall on Vancouver Island) 7. "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch"... 'You're as _ / You're as charming as an eel...' 8. Perhaps-es 9. Esoteric 10. Old 'town' in France

11. Like the wilderness 12. Baltimore base ball player 13. Dangerous flying bug 18. Wherefrom 22. Bit of drumming in "The Little Drummer Boy": 2 wds. 23. Jumble 24. Pub game prop 25. TV brand 26. Christmas dinner fragment 27. Converged 33. Lively rhythms 34. Canadian's continental neighbour, briefly 35. Hold back 36. Not ever, poetically 37. Employ 38. Dance style 39. 'Count' suffix 42. Of equal quickness: 2 wds. 43. Town in southern Manitoba named after one of Norse deity Odin's sons 44. Alarm clock button 45. Made money 48. Burial shroud city in Italy 49. Eat loudly 50. Surnamesakes of Orson Welles' most famous role 53. Fine 54. Butter substitute

55. Gambler's

57. Moo _ pork

(Takeout dish)

58. "_-ching!"

chances

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20 You need to make a bold decision and choose between one approach or another. The only danger is that your emotions will guide you instead of reason. Think before you act.

Taurus April 21 - May 21 It's not a good time for taking risks, so don't be tempted to gamble, even if the odds are in your favour. Travel plans, too, are likely to be disrupted. so unless you must be on the move it might be wise to stay at home.

I Gemini May 22 - June 21 You may go over the top if you think you are being cheated out of what you deserve. Before you start firing off accusations make sure you've got the evidence to back them up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23 An emotional looking full moon in your sign over the next 48 hours means you can't trust your feelings. Refuse to get upset no matter the provocation. How you react matters.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23 Something will disrupt your schedule. But why should that worry you? Relax, Slow down, Take it easy for a while. Save your energy for a time when you can make things happen.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23 The current cosmic set-up is more than a little misleading, so don't jump to conclusions and don't launch into a tirade against someone you think does not appreciate you. They'll soon be singing your praises.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 Making changes should be easy, but because the current full moon cuts across such an important axis of your chart you must make sure it's what you really want. You won't be able to change back again later.

M Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22 There is no point trying to keep feelings to yourself because you won't be able to. Be open about the way that you feel. If you bottle up your emotions they could explode later.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21 If someone is giving you a hard time, remove yourself from their presence before you do something that will make matters worse. Don't put up with immature behaviour.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20 Everything that needs to happen will happen when the time is right. Others will be rushing here, there and everywhere in an effort to get on top of things, but you don't have to.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19 This is a time more for thinking than for doing, so resist the urge to start something new and instead of wasting time on trivial and frivolous people, spend some quality time with your thoughts.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20 You may want to end a relationship but first try looking forward and asking yourself if you may later decide that you were too hasty. Full moons can play all sorts of tricks on people.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row column and box contains 1-9

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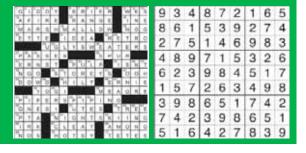
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